

NSC BRIEFING

12 November 1953

SIGNIFICANCE OF PHILIPPINE ELECTIONS

- I. Careful preparation by civic groups for free Philippine elections paid off handsomely in Magsaysay's impressive victory.
 - A. Every intimation of dubious intent on part of Quirino men had been heavily publicized.
 - B. They apparently decided odds against them too great to buck.
- II. Fact that public demand for free election recognized and respected will significantly strengthen Philippine democracy.
 - A. In past it has been more aspiration than reality.
- III. Not to be assumed, however, that Philippines has once and for all achieved stability.

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- A. Magsaysay has recognized integrity but meager political experience.

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- IV. Pro-American tag pinned on Magsaysay by Liberals proved to be political asset in Philippines.
 - A. Elsewhere in Southeast Asia fact that "American" candidate won may be regarded as indication that Filipinos still American puppets.
- V. Inevitably some disillusion among Filipinos in months to come, land reform economic problems unresolvable on short term.
 - A. Magsaysay has raised hopes that cannot possibly be satisfied.

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- B. Some powerful members of his party
will oppose attempts to satisfy them.
- B. But prospect for good government in
Philippines is brighter than ever
before.